



Michigan®
Boating
Industries
Association

May 20, 2014

Senate Committee on Transportation
100 Farnum Building
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: House Transportation Funding Package

Hello, and thank Mr Chairman and Committee Members for this opportunity to testify before you today.

My name is Nicki Polan and I am the Executive Director of the Michigan Boating Industries Association.

I am here on behalf of our 325 Michigan Boating Industries Association members, 58,000 citizens that are directly employed by marine businesses across our Great Lakes state, and of course, Michigan's estimated 4 million recreational boaters who help make Michigan the 3rd largest marine market in the country.

We need your help.

The recently passed House Transportation Funding Package, that utilizes \$500 million in General Fund dollars, is not enough to address the State's transportation infrastructure needs.

And, because the Package is only funding a portion of the TRADITIONAL FULL FUNDING FORMULA, it ignores the critical infrastructure funding needs of:

- Michigan's Waterways
- Rail Systems
- Trails, and
- Public Transit

... while also underfunding the efforts to address our roads and bridges.

We understand the importance of fixing the roads in Michigan, but we cannot ignore the importance of these other infrastructures, which are critical to the success of this state, the quality of life for our citizens, and the survival of industries which rely on them.

Businesses, boating citizens, and entire communities rely on us to take care of our waterways, trails, and rails infrastructure, no different than our roads.

If you remember, only one year ago the Legislature came to the aid of our marine industry and harbor communities, as we faced a low water crisis.

Entire harbor communities were at risk, as they are dependent on the dredging of harbors and the economics of a vibrant boating season.

These businesses include marinas and boat dealers, but also restaurants, hotels, gas stations, and retail stores to name a few.

\$21 million in Emergency Dredging Funds was allocated from the General Fund, because you understood how important our boating and fishing industries are to this state's economy and to its citizens.

Together, boating and fishing in Michigan have a \$7.4 billion economic impact on the state of Michigan.

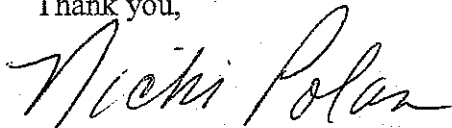
Boating, Fishing, Tourism, and many other industries, are dependent on the funding of Michigan's waterways, trails, and rails.

We respectfully ask your help to fix the Transportation Package by:

- 1) Assuring adequate funding levels and
- 2) All new transportation funding goes through the **Traditional "Full Funding Formula"**.

Only this will assure Michigan's success and the success of critical industries within our Great Lakes State.

Thank you,



Micki Polan
Executive Director

Michigan Boating Industries Association

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